

1

Kio Shimoku

GENSHIKEN

The Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture

ANIME OBSESSION

It's the spring of freshman year, and Kanji Sasahara is in a quandary. Should he fulfill his long-cherished dream of joining an otaku club? Sahi Kasuhabe also faces a dilemma. Can she over turn her boyfriend, anime fanboy Mahoto, into a normal guy? Kanji triumphs where Sahi fails when both Kanji and Mahoto sign up for Gonshihen: The Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture.

Undeterred, Sahi chases Mahoto through various activities of the club, from cos-play and comic conventions to video gaming and collecting anime figures—all the while discovering more than she ever wanted to know about the humorous world of the Japanese otaku!

**Includes special extras
after the story!**



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GENSHIKEN

1

KIO SHIMOKU

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
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Genshiken, Volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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GENSHIKEN



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THIS IS KANJI
SASAHARA.
HE'S A LITTLE
EXCITED TODAY.















SEVERAL
DAYS
LATER







































WHO'S
THE
NEW
GUY?



HUH?



ARE
YOU
IN
THE
GEN-
SHIKEN
TOOP?



HEH
HEH HEH.
GOOD. WE'VE
ROBBED HIM
OF HIS LAST
OUNCE OF
PRIDE.

WHAT'S
HIS
PROBLEM?



SMACK



WIFE THAT
STUPID LOOK
OFF YOUR
FACE!

DO I
LOOK LIKE
I AM?
DO I REALLY
LOOK LIKE
I'D HANG
OUT WITH
THIS BUNCH
OF LOSERS?

DAMN IT!
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE TRIED
TO MATCH MY
OUTFIT WITH
KOUSAKU'S



SAKI-
CHAN
HAS A
BIT OF A
TEMPER.

IT
DIDN'T
HURT AS
BAD AS
IT
LOOKS.

HEH HEH,
SHE IS
PRETTY
HEATH.



SHUT
YOUR
ASS
UP!





SASAHARA KANJI

PROFILE

KANJI
SASAHARA

BORN JANUARY 13TH

BLOOD TYPE B

FAVORITE

MANGA

PANTHER VS PANTHER

BERSERKER

FAVORITE

ANIME

PATWABER

FAVORITE

VIDEO GAME

DRAGON FIST 3

THE CHAMP OF

FIGHTERS 95

FAVORITE

FIGHT GAME

CHARACTERS

YOSHIMU-

KUN

FUCHIKOREI

ERIC

ZABEL

BARBARA

THE

BEHEADER

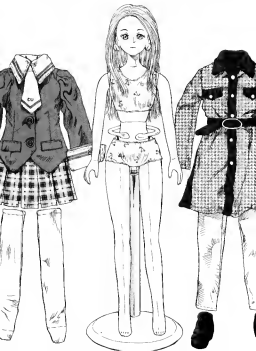
PLEASE SEE THE
CHARACTERISTICS PAGE AND
DO NOT NECESSARILY
RELATE THE FOLLOWING CHARCS.



CRYING OVER SPLIT MILK



CHAPTER 2 -
PREPARE TO BE PERSECUTED...













BUT WE DO
SPEND A
LOT OF TIME
TOGETHER.
I WONDER IF
SAKI-CHAN
LIKES ME.



OH,
YOU
MEAN
SAKI-
CHAN?

SURE YOU
DON'T?
WHAT ABOUT
THAT GIRL-

SHE'S
NOT MY
GIRL-
FRIEND.



NOH,
HE'S NOT
JUST AN
OTAKU, HE'S
TOTALLY
GUBLESS...

WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK?



THE SCHOOL IS
ONLY 20 MINUTES
FROM SHINJUKU
BUT IT TOTALLY
FEELS LIKE IT'S IN
THE MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE. I MEAN,
THERE'S NOTHING
TO DO THERE.

YOU KNOW, IN A
PLACE LIKE THAT,
WITH NOTHING TO
DO, YOU'D THINK
THERE'D BE ONE
OBVIOUS WAY THAT
A GUY AND A GIRL
COULD PASS THE
TIME, RIGHT?



THAT'S
RIGHT,
HE'S A TOTAL
OTAKU.



WE
CAN
PLAY
VIDEO
GAMES

YOU
Wanna
COME
OVER
LATER?



REALLY??

EH...



THAT'S
FREAKY-
IOUS

BUT
ALL HE WANTS
TO DO IS PLAY
VIDEO GAMES,
WHAT'S UP
WITH THAT?



ONE
OF
US.

SO, THE
GUY IS
REALLY IN
THE
GENKING



ONE
OF
US.



ONE
OF
US.



YEAH, WE
CAN PLAY
SOME FIGHT
GAMES.

COOL
...I WAS
HOPING TO
MAKE A
FRIEND LIKE
THIS...















IS IT ALL
RIGHT TO
JUST CALL
THEM UP
OUT OF
THE BLUE?

UHM...
WELL...

HUH?
WHAT?



HANG
ON A
SEC.

AW
WAIT.



HEY!
WE'RE
HERE.



YEAH...
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

SURE.
IF THEY DON'T
WANA COME
OVER, THEY
DON'T HAVE
TO.



HELLO.
HEY, THIS IS
KOUSAKU.
WANA COME
OVER? YEAH...
SHINJI-KUN
IS ALREADY
HERE.
YEAH, STOP
BY A CON-
VENIENCE
STORE AND
BRING OVER
SOME
DINNER.



YEAH,
OR YOU
COULD
STOP BY
HOKKEN.











UM... IT'S BBSHHHRR...

ANYWAY, WE'RE ABOUT
TO LEAVE, SO COME
ON OVER.

OKAY...

OH
REALLY...

WHAT...
WHAT IS
THIS?









THERE
YOU GO
WITH
THAT
"STRENGTHEN
OUR FORCES"
CRISP
AGAIN.

BUT
WHEN IT
COMES TO HIS
SKILL AT FIGHT
GAMES...

THERE'S
NO DENYING
THAT HE WOULD
STRENGTHEN
OUR
FORCES

HA
HA



HMP
WELL,
THAT'S
OKAY.

WE
PROBABLY
SHOULD'VE
LEFT
EARLIER

I'M
SORRY I
TOLD HER
WE WERE
LEAVING.



GO
AHEAD,
SRSR-
HARR.

UM, OR I
ASK YOU
GUYS
SOME-
THING?



SHOULD
WE GO
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE?

WELL,
WHAT DO
YOU GUYS
WANA
DO.

ANYBODY
GOT ANY
IDERS?





...HAVE
ANY
PORN
GAMES?

UM,
DO ANY
OF
YOU
GUYS...

I'VE
NEVER
PLAYED
ONE
BEFORE



HE FINALLY
FOUND THE
COURAGE TO
FOLLOW HIS
DREAMS

WH-WHAT?
WHY
MY
HOUSE?

HA
HA HA.
OKAY.

LET'S GO TO
KUGUYAMA'S
HOUSE.



TURN
YOUR
HEAD THAT
WAY
♡
DON'T
LOOK.
♡

OKAY,
I'M
GONNA
TRY THIS
ONE ON
NOW.

AT THAT
MOMENT,
SAKI-CHAN
WAS
TRYING
HER
HARDEST

THAT WON'T
WORK, SAKI-
CHAN. IF YOU
ASK HIM NOT
TO LOOK,
KUGUYAMA
REALLY WON'T
LOOK.

OKAY.

KOSAKA MAKOTO

PROFILE

**MAKOTO
KOSAKA**

BORN FEBRUARY 2ND

BLOOD TYPE B

FAVORITE

MANGA

THE MYSTERIOUS
ADVENTURES OF DADA

FAVORITE

ANIME

PRETTY MUCH
ANYTHING

FAVORITE

VIDEO GAMES

FULL ARMOR

STREET MASTER 2

DRACULINA HUNTER

FAVORITE

FIGHT GAME

CHARACTERS

JULIETTE

SAKAMOTO

TAKKEN

GOKU

PLEASE SEE THE
CHARACTER'S CREDITS PAGE
DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND
WHAT THE AUTHOR IS TRYING



CALM DOWN



THE PERFECT CHOICE





CHAPTER 3 -

THE MOST MEANINGLESS STRATEGY IN HISTORY



IS IT
JUST YOU
HERE
TODAY
PREZ?



AGE
TO BE
YOUNG
AGAIN

OH...

SO
THAT'S
WHAT
THEY'RE
UP TO?



WHAT
COME
ON,
PREZ.

AGE HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
MATURITY.

YOU'RE
A JUNIOR,
AREN'T
YOU
HIGH-
SCHOOL-
KID?

YOU
SEEM SO
MATURE
FOR YOUR
AGE.



I HEAR
SINCE
CLASS
GOT
CANCELLED I
FIGURED-

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
MORRISON
AND THE
OTHER GUYS
AREN'T
HERE.

YEAH,
THEY WENT
TO
AKI-
HABARA.







WHAT'S THAT?

SO, WE'LL
SAVE
SAGHARA'S
"BIG EVENT"
FOR LATER,
BHP

WHY DON'T
WE GO DOWN
THE MAIN
DRAG FIRST?
AND CHECK
STUFF OUT
ALONG THE
WAY.



YEAH..

WELL,
AFTER
WE HAVE
SOME
LUNCH, WHY
DON'T WE HEAD
OVER...

TO
ONE OF
THOSE
STORES



WHY?
BUT
KOUSAKA
ISN'T HERE.

YOU WERE YOU
WANTED TO
COME OUT HERE,
KOME FELLOW
WED TURN
TODAY WED OUR
"WELCOME TO
DE. GARDEN"
PART



REALLY?
BUT..

YEAH,
WE WENT
TO
WISHLAND
WITH
KOUSAKA.

ANYWAY,
TODAY IS YOUR
DAY WE'RE
JUST TRIPPING
ALONG.











IF YOU
KEEP ACTING
EMBARRASSED,
YOU'RE ONLY
GONNA
WIRE OUT.



SO,
WHICH ONE
SHOULD I GO
FOR... GAME
BASED... OR
FAN-
BASED...?



BUT WHY
WOULD THEY
MAKE A PORNO
FAN-ZINE BASED
ON A GAME
THAT'S ALREADY
PORNOGRAPHIC
TO BEGIN WITH?

I'LL
ASK
ONE OF
THE
GUYS
LATER.



WHEN THEY SAY
"FAN-
BASED"
THEY MUST BE
TALKING ABOUT
THOSE IS
NOT CHICK-
GAMES.

I'VE
HARDLY
EVER
PLAYED
THOSE.



I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT THIS ONE FOR YEARS AND YEARS...

HEY, FIGHT GAMES!

HERE'S THE ONE THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...



AND THIS ONE IS REALLY THICK, BUT IT'S EXPENSIVE.

BUT IT'S ONLY A FEW PAGES LONG. IT IS CHEAP THOUGH...

AND I HEARD THAT THEY CALL 'EM 'FAN-ZINE'S' 'CAUSE THEY'RE DRAWN BY FANS.

I LEARNED THAT FROM WHACKING OUT IN THE GYMNASIUM.

IT'S REALLY THICK, BUT THE QUALITY VIBES FROM PAGE TO PAGE. IT'S A FAN-ZINE, SO IT'S DRAWN BY LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE.



THE COF SERIES... YEAH, THESE CHARACTERS WERE PRETTY MUCH MADE FOR WHACKING-OFF TO...

WOW, IT'S CHUN LING! SHE'S STILL POPULAR, HA HA!

WHOA, THE ART IS REALLY GOOD.



I COULD BUY ONE
OR TWO OF THE
2000 YEN BOOKS,
OR FOUR OR FIVE
OF THE ONES THAT
ONLY COST A FEW
HUNDRED YEN.

SHOULD I
CHOOSE BASED
ON THE ART, OR
THE SERIES THE
ZINE IS BASED
ON...

I'VE GOTTA
WEIGH MY
OPTIONS...



YEAH

BUT THE
PROBLEM
IS I DON'T
REALLY KNOW
UPREARDED
ANY NEW
DISCOVERIES.

BUT
KUGA-
YAH!



I KNOW

I ALWAYS
CHOOSE THEM
BASED ON WHICH
CLUB DRAWS
THEM.

WELL,
I CAN'T
FIGURE OUT
WHICH ONE'S
TO GET



HEY!

HOW'S
IT
GOING?



YEAH

I SPEND ALL
MY DOUGH
ON COMICS,
SO I CAN'T
DO IT.

IT
COSTS
A TON
OF
MONEY.

FAN-ZINES ARE
BASED ON
GROUPS OF
FANS WHO LOVE A
CERTAIN SERIES,
SO THEY MIGHT
BE THE BEST WAY
TO PICK 'EM, BUT...



HE BUYS
EVERY "SHINER
BAGEL" ZINE
THAT HE CAN
GET HIS
HANDS ON.

HE
CHOOSES
SOLELY
BASED ON
THE
ORIGINAL
SERIES.

HE LIKES
"SHINER
BAGEL."



HE
DOESN'T
LOOK
AT THE
PRICE.



WHAT
ABOUT
MODERN-
ISM?

IN A WAY,
IT'S KIND
OF THE
ULTIMATE
TECHNIQUE.

YEAH,
HE HAS A
PRETTY
CRUIZ
METHOD FOR
CHOOSING
'EM.



NO! I THINK HE
JUST TAKES
IT OUT OF
HIS LIVING
EXPENSES.

HE
DOESN'T
HAVE A
JOB OR
ANYTHING.

WHAT? WHOA...
I WISH I COULD
DO THAT. BUT
DOES HE HAVE
THAT KIND OF
MONEY?





BESIDES, HE'S THE ONE WHO ALWAYS SAYS "MONEY MOVES THE MARKET" EVEN THOUGH HE'S A TOTAL OVERSHOTS.

WHY? IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S GONNA TELL ME TO SWITCH SCHOOLS OR SOMETHING.

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D BETTER STOP BEFORE YOUR DAD GETS PISSED OFF?

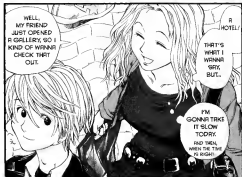


OKAY, WHERE SHOULD WE GO?

HEY, WE'RE GONNA GET SOME DINNER LATER, RIGHT? LET'S KILL SOME TIME UNTIL THEN.



YOU SURE BOUGHT A LOT.



WELL, MY FRIEND JUST OPENED A GALLERY, SO I KIND OF WANNA CHECK THAT OUT.

A HOTEL?

THAT'S WHAT I WANNA SAY, BUT...

I'M GONNA TAKE IT SLOW TODAY, AND THEN, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.



WACCAT 003





AND
THEN
SOME...

DID THAT
SCRATCH
YOUR ITCH?

FRESH



IT'S NOT
MY FAULT
THAT I
ST-STUTTER.
I CAN'T
HELP IT.

I'M SORRY
TELL YOU
STRAIGHT UP
KUSABAMA,
IT'S YOUR
FAULT.



THAT'S
WHY I
HATE...
...PEOPLE
LIKE THAT.

THAT
CLERK
REALLY
BUGGED
ME OFF.



UH-OH,
SOME-
ONE'S NOT
HAPPY.

IT'S
A GOOD
REASON
FOR HIM
TO BE
SO SAD.
TODAY.



YEAH,
KUSABAMA?

HUH?



HEY,
HOW ABOUT
IF WE GO
DO EXERCISE?

...AND IT'LL
GIVE YOU A
CHANCE TO
PRACTICE
USING YOUR
VOICE.

WE CAN
LET OFF
SOME
STEAM...



IT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH YOUR
STUTTERING.
YOU JUST
TALK WAY TOO
QUIETLY.

OH, SHUT
UP.







IT'S
PRETTY
WARM
OUT
TONIGHT.



HEY,
KOUSAKA.

YEAH?

MAYBE
I'LL JUST
HINT AT
IT A
LITTLE.



I'M A
LITTLE
TIPSY.

AH-HA



I SURE
DO.

YER



DO
YOU
HAVE
PLANS
TONIGHT?



I'M GOING
TO
RICHMOND
TO GET
IN LINE
FOR THE
MIDNIGHT
SAL.

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO A MIDNIGHT
SAL IN A LONG TIME. THEY'RE
RELEASING A NEW EDITION
OF THIS SOFTWARE THAT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE TOTALLY
AWESOME. THE FANS ARE ALL
REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT. IT'S
ALL OVER THE NET.



YEP.

SO,
YOU
MEAN...

YOU'RE
GOING TO
RICHMOND
BECAUSE A
NEW VIDEO
GAME IS
COMING OUT?



I'M
GUESSING
THAT'S
THE
WAY THE
GENSHIN
GUYS WENT
OUT THERE
TOO.

I DON'T
WAKE
UP
WITH THEM
BUT I'M
SURE I'LL
SEE 'EM
OVER
THERE.





HI,
GRANDMA!
IT'S ME.

I'M IN
HISAJUKU
RIGHT NOW.

I DON'T FEEL
LIKE GOING
BACK HOME
TONIGHT.
CAN I COME
OVER?

YEAH,
I'LL STAY
THE
NIGHT.

TO-GOO-
GETHE-ER
WE CAN
OVERGOOO-
COME.

TOGETHER
WE CAN
OVERCOME.

CUUUUUUU
FISTS
RRRRR-RE
SPARKLING
WITH COOL-
R-R-RGE.

OUR
FISTS ARE
SPARKLING
WITH
COURAGE.



OHMMH OUR
HE-ARTS
ARE TOO
GEMNN-TLE.

OUR
HEARTS
ARE TOO
GENTLE



THIS IS MY
SONG! BESIDES
YOU'RE JUST
MUMBING THE
WORDS, AND
YOU'RE NOT EVEN
STANDING UP
CUT IT OUT!

HMPH
WHAT'S
THE BIG
DEAL?

HEY
KUGRYMM!
STOP
SINGING
ALONG!

YOU WON'T
EVEN STAND
UP IN FRONT!
YOU JUST
SIT THERE
HOLDING
THE MIC THE
WHOLE DAWN
TIME!



SH-
SHUT
UP!

IF YOU
MNNR
SING, GET
UP AND
SING IN
FRONT OF
EVERYBODY.

WE'D BETTER
HURRY UP AND
GET DINNER OR
WE'LL BE LATE
FOR THE "MNN
EVENT!"

MADARAME HARUNOBU

PROFILE

**HARUNOBU
MADARAME**

BORN FEBRUARY 25TH

BLOOD TYPE O

FAVORITE

MANGA

BE-BOP-HELL-SING
YOTAROO'S SAD SONG

FAVORITE

ANIME

MOBILE SUITS T-GANGARU
DOREMI-CHAN
YUCKOY

THE ADVENTURES OF
DORA THE SPACE PIRATE
SPIRITED AWAY

FAVORITE

VIDEO GAMES

THE DIARY OF KIKERO
NINJA ADVENTURES
ENCHO
SHINOBU RETURNS
THE OUTLAW KIKERO

FAVORITE

FIGHT GAME

CHARACTERS

KONAKO BERETTA
TRUULIN

PLEASE SEE THE
CHARACTERS' CHOICES AND
DO NOT NECESSARILY
REFLECT THE MANGA'S THEMES.



CAUSE VS EFFECT





CHAPTER 4

GATHER 'ROUND THE ROUND TABLE





YOU
CAN'T GET
CRAFTSMANSHIP
LIKE THIS FROM
SOME 100 YEAR
TOY MAKING
MACHINE.

FOR
EXAMPLE...
LOOK AT THE
SHADOWS
MADE BY THE
ARTISAN IN
HER SHIRT.
DOESN'T IT
LOOK JUST
LIKE THE
SHADOWS IN
THE SCENE?

HUH...

THROAT 11



YEAH...

BUT
THOSE
FIGURES
ARE SO
EXPENSIVE.

BUT WHEN
YOU TAKE A
GOOD LOOK
AT IT, I THINK
IT'S WORTH
IT

DIDN'T
THAT ONE
COST
7800
YEN?

THROAT 1076



WELL,
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN I CAN
IGNORE MY
DUTY AS A
FAN.

HEY TANKO,
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SPENDING ALL
YOUR MONEY
ON GOSPLUR.



WAS
CON-
FIDENT?



CHIEF

FOR
THE FIRST
TIME.

I JUST
WANT YOU
TO UNDER-
STAND
HOW I'VE
FELT.

SO...















Shounen-Gaius: Part 1 The Gaius is On the Air!









FOR
EXAMPLE...

HAHA!



A WOMAN'S
BODY...

HOW
ABOUT
THIS?



A
FACE?

WHAT
DOES
THIS
LOOK
LIKE TO
YOU?



I MEAN,
GUYS
WITH 2-D
COMPLEXES.

HAHA,
THERE ARE
A LOT OF
GUYS LIKE
THAT.



JUST TAKE A
LOOK AT THE
SIMPLE CARVING
PAINTINGS FROM
ANCIENT TIMES.



...IMAGES OF
WILD GAME
RUNNING
ACROSS THE
PLAINS.

IN THOSE
PRIMITIVE
DRAWINGS,
SCENT
FROM
ROCK



HUMAN ARE
CAPABLE OF
FINDING A
FAMILIAR IMAGE
IN EVEN THE
MOST ABSTRACT
DRAWING.

EXACTLY

THIS IS
A BASIC
FUNCTION
OF THE
HUMAN
MIND.



I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE DEFECTIVE BRAIN.

IN OTHER WORDS,

EITHER THAT, OR THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO SOUND COOL.

I MEAN, EVEN BACK IN THE EDO PERIOD THEY HAD EXOTIC SHAMISE PRINTS.

ANYBODY WHO SAYS "YOU CAN'T BRICK OFF TO ENME" OBVIOUSLY HAS A DEFECTIVE BRAIN.



YEAH.

ARE HIS KOUJIKU-KU.

...ALWAYS BEEN SO CLUELESS ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT?

DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN ALL IN REAL WOMEN?

OH, THEN TELL ME STRAIGHT.



YEAH.

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HIS PERSONALITY, AND NOW I HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIS WEIRD THOUGHTS.



I'M INTERESTED IN THEM, I MEAN, I THINK IT'D BE COOL TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BUT.

...YEAH, PEOPLE ASK US THAT A LOT.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MADNESS.

I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING ONE.



WHAT?



IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOU CHOSE
HIM FOR
SUPER-
FOOL
REASONS.

GO...
IT HAD
NOTHING TO
DO WITH HIS
PERSONALITY
OR HIS
TRAIT.



IT'S
NOT
LIKE...

...YOU
SAID
AND I
JUST MET
HERE AT
SCHOOL.



STOP
TALKING
LIKE YOU
KNOW ALL
ABOUT IT.



YOU
WERE
SUCKER
IN BY
KOUSAKU'S
LOOKS
AND FELL
IN LOVE AT
FIRST SIGHT,
RIGHT?

HOW CAN
YOU DO THAT? I
JUST DON'T GET
IT. HOW CAN YOU
FALL IN LOVE WITH
SOMEONE YOU
DON'T EVEN KNOW?
WHAT?



WHAT?

YEAH...



















TANAKA SOUICHIRO

PROFILE

**SOUICHIRO
TANAKA**

BIRTHDAY DECEMBER 22ND
BLOOD TYPE AB

FAVORITE MANGA
THE SEVEN STAR STORIES

FAVORITE ANIME
RYUNOSUKE THE CASTLE IN
THE SKY
CONAN THE BOY FROM THE
FUTURE

*FAVORITE
VIDEO GAMES*
YULIUS TACTIC
THE STORY OF MR. STUPID

*FAVORITE FIGHT GAME
CHARACTERS*
DR. HAYWOOD



PROFILE

**MITSunORI
KUGAYAMA**

BIRTHDAY JUNE 29TH
BLOOD TYPE A

FAVORITE MANGA
AMMAN BALL

FAVORITE ANIME
FUN WITH THE TIRLURUN
FAMILY (BEFORE THE THEME
SONG CHANGED)

*FAVORITE
VIDEO GAMES*
EXITGE

*FAVORITE FIGHT GAME
CHARACTERS*
THE LOVELY YOGA THETTE

KUGAYAMA MITSUNORI

A NEW NAME



NICKNAMES





KIRIJI STEPPED
ABOARD WHAT
WAS PERHAPS
THE WORLD'S
MOST OTAKU-
FILLED TRAIN...

...AND HEADED
FOR THE BIGGEST
EVENT IN THE LIVES
OF TOKYO OTAKU:
DAY 3 OF THE HUGE
SUMMER
FAN-ZINE
CONVENTION
KNOWN AS "COMIC-
FEST 2002."



GUILTY GEAR
FIGHTING THE CROWD







BECAUSE
PEOPLE
STAYED
THE
NIGHT.

HOW CAN
THERE BE
SO MANY
PEOPLE IN
LINE IF WE
GOT ON
THE FIRST
TRAIN?



WELL, WE
WOULDN'T
HAVE
WANTED TO
GO THAT
FAR AWAY,
RIGHT?

NO, SHE
WOULDN'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT WAS
GOING
ON.

IF KUN-
KUNUKUN-
SEN WERE
HERE RIGHT
NOW SHE'D
REALLY BE
LETTING US
HAVE IT.



BUT,
BUT I
THOUGHT
THAT WAS
BLONDIE?

YEAH, I
THOUGHT
SO TOO.



AND
THERE'S
THE WEST
ENTRANCE TOO. I WONDER HOW
MANY PEOPLE
ARE HERE
RIGHT TOGETHER.

THIS LINE
IS EVEN
LONGER
THAN I
THOUGHT
IT'D BE.

FABROR IS WAITING AT THE WEST ENTRANCE, WHICH IS CLOSER TO THE COMPLEX SECTION.



I GUESS WE
CAN'T FORGET
ABOUT
GETTING
THE MOST
POPULAR
ZONES.

THE LINE IS
SO LONG
WE'RE GOING
TO COMPLETELY
RE-THINK
OUR BURNING
STRATEGY.

THIS
COULD
TAKE A
WHILE.



OH, I'M
OKAY.
THERE
ARE JUST
SO MANY
PEOPLE.

YOU BETTER
BE CAREFUL.
YOU'RE GOING
TO NEED YOUR
STRENGTH
TOOK.

MAYBE
WORTH
TRYING
TO TRY OUT
LATER.











GOD, I
CAN'T
STOP
TEKING
TO
MYSELF.

WELL, I
GUESS IF
YOU GET IT
HOME AND
FIND OUT IT
SUCKS, IT'S
REALLY NOT
THAT BIG A
DEAL.

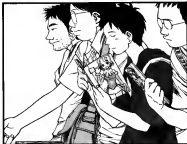
Worst of
the fan-
zine shops
would
never let
you do
that.

I mean,
I think it's
totally
cool that
you're
allowed
to, but...



I didn't
know
you
could
do that.

Wow,
everyone
is
checking
out the
zines
before
they buy
'em.



THAT'S
TOO
YEAH.

I'll
take
one of
these.









FUKUROU'S CYBER ROOM







COULD
SASUKE
BEHOLDING IS
OFFERING HIM.

I'LL
USE THE
TOP OF
MY HEAD
TO GUESS
BELOW.

SHRUG-
GUY!

I'M
BUYING
IT!



ACTUALLY
I'M IN THE
GANGSTER
AND THE
MANGA CLUB
TOO.

OH, SO, IS
THIS THE
MANGA
CLUB'S
BOOTH?

REIL.

SAFT
THAT.

HARRGLOR-
GUY? WHAT ARE
YOU..?



GO
AHEAD.
TAKE IT.
HAVE A
LOOK.

NO, I'LL
BUY
IT.



THAT'S
ALL RIGHT.
HERE
TAKE ONE
FOR THE
GUY.

I'LL
BUY
ONE!

NOW
YOU
GUYS ARE
MAKING
YOUR OWN
FAN-ZINE?





THE
GENSHIKEN
LEADS A
COMPLETELY
MEANINGLESS
EXISTENCE.

IN OTHER
WORDS...

AND THEN
THERE'S
TAKING
WITH HIS
COSPLAY.

HEH...
COSPLAY...

HEH
HEH

COMAROS!
STAND
UP AND
FIGHT.

...BUT ALL
HE DOES IS
REPEAT WHAT
HE'S HEARD
ON GUNDAM.
HE DOESN'T
REALLY
KNOW
ANYTHING.

AND
MIDORINE
TALKS LIKE
HE'S A REAL
MILITARY
OTAKU.

BUT ALL HE
DOES IS
SKETCH
HE NEVER
REALLY
WORKS ON
ANYTHING
SERIOUSLY.

THAT'S
WHY ITS
MEMBERS
ARE ALL A
BLUNCH OF
HICKS.

KUGAYAMA
IS THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN DRAW

BUT
THEN
THERE'S...
WHAT'S
HIS
NAME...

WHAT'S
THE DEAL
WITH
THIS
GUY...



W

BUT I STOPPED GOING ONCE I FIGURED OUT WHAT THE DEAL WAS.

WELL,
TECHNICALLY
I AM...
SINCE I
STARTED
OUT
OVER
THREE

**HUMP BUT
AREN'T YOU
IN BOTH
CLUBS,
HAPPYCH-
SAMP?**

REALITY ON WHEEL

WELL, I'M
ACTUALLY
PRETTY
HAPPY
OVER
THERE.

DID YOU
DREAM
ANYTHING
IN THE FIRM
ZONE YOU
GAVE ME?

ONLY
BY
THE
NET

DON'T
TELL
ANYONE
ELSE WHAT
I SAID.
♡

OH, HEY!
THIS IS JUST
BETWEEN
YOU AND ME.
CHUCK



I JUST KIND
OF CRITIQUE
EVERYONE
ELSE'S
WORK.

NEEH,
I'M
SORT OF
LIKE AN
EDITOR.



...IN THE
MANGA CLUB.

I FEEL
BAD FOR
EVERYONE...



SO THAT'S THE
KIND OF GUY HE IS.
NOW I KNOW WHY
EVERYBODY ALWAYS
MAKES A SOUR
FACE WHENEVER
HARAGUCHI'S
NAME COMES
UP.

HEHEHE









PROFILE

**SAKI
KASUKABE**

BIRTHDAY JULY 19TH

BLOOD TYPE AB

FAVORITE

MANGA

"LET'S GO" RAI

JUNIOR HIGH

ROYALTY IN MOTION

FAVORITE

ANIME

NONE

FAVORITE GAME

"LIFE" (THE BOARD GAME)

FAVORITE

FIGHT GAME

CHARACTER

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME

THAT?

THESE ARE THE
CHARACTER'S OPINIONS AND
DO NOT NECESSARILY
REFLECT THE AUTHOR'S THOUGHTS.



KASUKABE SAKI

DIFFERENT STROKES

THEN AGAIN...









SURE,
THAT'S
HOW WE
RAISE
MONEY
FOR DUES.



THAT'S
SOMEONE
HE CAN'T
REALLY DO
THAT UNDER
THE MANGA
CLUB'S NAME

HAPPENED?
BUT WHAT
ABOUT ALL
THE MONEY
YOU MADE AT
THE CON-
FEST?



WE'LL
PRO-
BABLY
JUST DO
IT AGAIN

WHAT'S
THE MANGA
CLUB DOING
FOR THIS
YEAR'S
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL?

AGAIN?



OH,
REALLY?

I THINK IT
WAS LIKE
TEN YEARS
AGO OR
SOME-
THING...
ANYWAY,
NOW THE
FAN-ZINE
IS JUST A
SEPARATE
ACTIVITY.

I WENT
BACK, I
GUESS THEY
RAN INTO SOME
PROBLEMS
WITH THE
SCHOOL...

YOU
KNOW,
BECAUSE IT'S
"GAY-
ORIENTED"...

THAT'S
SOME
FOOLISH
CLUB SET
UP FROM
TEN
YEARS
AGO.



THAT'S
TRUE.

BESIDES, IT
WOULDN'T FEEL
RIGHT TO DO IT
JUST FOR THE
MONEY.



HEY
THEY'RE NOT
A MEMBER



YOSH, AND
I THINK HE
MIGHT BE
ABLE TO GET
SOMETHING
STARTED
WITH 'EM.

SO,
DID THE
GANGBROS
GET ANY
NEW
MEMBERS?



...IS
THIS...
THE
MANGA
CLUB?

UH...
UH...



HOW
HOW

THEN
RODEN,
WHY'RE
NOT



UM...

UMH...

UH...

YES?











YEAH, THAT'S COOL!
I'VE BEEN GOING TO THIS
SPECIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SCHOOL WITH FOREIGN
PROFESSORS.

YEAH,
THAT'S WHERE THE
FAMOUS COLLEGE IS.
NOW, YOUR ENGLISH
IS REALLY GOOD. I CAN
TOTALLY UNDERSTAND
YOU.

MASSACHUSETTS?
ISN'T THAT WHERE
CAMBRIDGE IS?



I WAS IN 3RD
GRADE SO... I
GUESS I WAS
ABOUT TEN.

HOW LONG DID YOU
LIVE OVER THERE? HOW
OLD WERE YOU WHEN
YOU MOVED?



AFTER I
GRADUATE I'M
GONNA OPEN
A CLOTHING
STORE... I AT
LEAST HAVE TO
BE ABLE TO
SPEAK
ENGLISH.



IT WON'T ENX. THE
ENGLISH SCHOOL I
GO TO IS REALLY HIGH
LEVEL... YOU HAVE TO
LEARN FAST OR YOU'LL
FALL BEHIND.

I HAD TO
DROP OUT FOR
A WHILE AND
GOSH, CRUISE I
COULDN'T KEEP
UP.



WHAT?

THIS
DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE.







I GUESS THAT'LL WORK, RIGHT? SAME AS ALWAYS...

SHOULD WE JUST GO WITH OUR OLD STRATEGY?

OH YES. WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?



I SAID NO WAY!

HA HA HA

OH, AND I ALREADY REVISIONED KOURIKU-KUN AND KIRIKURE-KUN TO COMPLY DETAIL



EHP



NO NORMAL PERSON WOULD WANT TO DO THAT.

...RIGHT?

UM... ACTUALLY, I'VE DONE IT BEFORE.

















... THAT
YOU FEEL LIKE
YOU HAVE TO
PUSH PEOPLE
AWAY JUST SO
YOU CAN HAVE
THAT PART OF
YOURSELF.

I KNOW
SOMEONE
WHO DID
EXACTLY THAT,
AND ENDED UP
NOT HAVING
ANY FRIENDS.

THE
SCARY
THING
IS...



WENT
THAT WAY
YOU LEFT
THE
DOOR
OPEN?

I MEAN, THE
TRUTH IS,
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR OTHER
PEOPLE
WITH THE
SAME TRUTH,
RIGHT?

IT'S NOTHING
TO BE
PAINED OF
YOU'RE JUST
LOOKING
FOR FRIENDS,
RIGHT?

WHY DO YOU FEEL
LIKE YOU HAVE TO
HIDE IT? I MEAN
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE INTO,
THEN THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE INTO.



BLOND, MIDDLE-AGED GUY WITH SUN-GLASSES.

IT IS TOTALLY WEIRD THOUGH.

HA HA!

HA HA

HA



I GUESS IT IS PRETTY WEIRD.

BUT THEY'RE SO COOL.

HEH. HEH HEH



I DON'T KNOW HOW ABOUT HIM, BUT I WOULD NOT BE THE GUY, YOU'D SAY CHARACTER.

WELL, I'M ACTUALLY STARTED TO INTERESTED THE OTHER WHO.

HMMM... I THINK I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH TO HER.



HA HA! HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?

IT IS RELIEF, THOUGH.

OH YEAH, LIKE YOUR BOY-FRIEND.

HE'S... NOT REALLY MY TYPE.



LET'S TRY TO GET TO LONGER. IF THEY COULD FIND OUT HOW MANY OF US WERE HERE, WE'D BE IN TROUBLE.







END OF CHAPTER 6

PROFILE

**KANAKO
OHNO**

BIRTHDAY JULY 14TH

BLOOD TYPE O

FAVORITE

MANGA

THE SILENT MISS

FAVORITE

ANIME

MOBILE SUITS: A GANBARU

FAVORITE

VIDEO GAME

SAMURAI SPIRIT (ORIGINAL
VERSION)

MEASUREMENTS

WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE
WHO HAS TO WRITE THIS?

FAVORITE

FIGHT GAME

CHARACTERS

JUPPEI-CHAN

KENNY HYTEIGA

EARTHQUAKE NINJA

ZANGULA

THESE ARE THE
CHARACTER'S CHOICES AND
DO NOT NECESSARILY
REFLECT THE AUTHOR'S VIEWS.



OHNO KANAKO

SPOILED



SELF DESTRUCTION





AM!

THE
FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL



HEY..!

HE'S
SO
CUTE!
HE'S
SO
CUTE!

AWESOME!
HE'S
TOTALLY MY
TYPE. IS HE
A FRESHMAN
TOOP



BONUS MANGA -

TO HELL
WITH
DESTINY.



EH?



-GIG-
GIMP

HUP
IS
THAT
YOU..



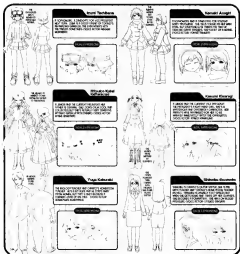
YES?

UH..

WHOA!
HE SEEMS
REALLY EASY
TO TALK TO.
THAT JUST
MOVED
HIM UP A
NOTCH.

ARE
YOU
A
FRESH-
MAN?





Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

College Circles, page 4

Social life in Japanese colleges revolves around participation in interest groups. The activities of these groups, also known as circles, can range from sports to academic studies to anime.



Yakiniku, page 4

Yakiniku is Korean-style barbecued beef. Yum!

Otaku, page 7

An "otaku" is someone with an obsession of some kind, generally with manga or anime.

FF, page 19

"FF" probably refers to the game "Final Fantasy."

Tenku No Shiro Rapyuta, page 20

Tenku No Shiro Rapyuta, *The Castle in the Sky*, is a Hayao Miyazaki anime film.

Fan-zines, page 26

Kanji is looking at a doujinshi fan-zine. These fan-zines are written by fans using popular manga characters. The doujinshis are usually a group effort written by college manga club members like the Genshiken guys. They often contain graphic homosexual and adult content.



Gundam, page 32

Kanji is quoting the anime series "Gundam."

Soboro donburi, page 38

Soboro donburi is minced chicken and egg over rice.

Honneamise: Royal Space Force, page 43

Tanaka and Kugayama are referring to the anime film wings of *Honneamise: Royal Space Force*.

Hokaben, page 48

Hokaben is short for Hoka Hoka Tei, a popular bento (boxed lunch) chain.

Akihabara, page 62

Akihabara is the electronics shopping district in Tokyo.

The JR, page 63

JR stands for Japan Railway. It's the largest of all the Japanese railroads.



A tight squeeze, page 68

Some stores in Tokyo are so small that they can only allow a certain number of customers to enter at a time.



Pornographic fan-zines, page 71

Usually pornographic fan-zines take characters from regular games or manga and put them in pornographic situations. Kanji is puzzled that someone would make a fan-zine based on something that was already pornographic to start with.



Soramimi Hour, page 78

"Soramimi Hour" is a musical segment on a popular comedy show called *Tamori Club*.

Kugapii, page 94

Kugapii is Saki's nickname for Kugayama.

Why so formal?, page 95

Kanji uses formal Japanese when speaking to Saki.

Mahjong Takes Off, page 98

Mahjong video games, in which a girl removes a piece of clothing after every winning move, are very popular in Japan.



Shunga prints, page 100

Shunga were popular, erotic wood block prints from the Edo period of Japanese history.

The Obon holiday, page 125

The Comic-Fest is probably happening during the “Obon” holiday. Obon is a special summer holiday when people visit the graves of their deceased relatives.



Yearly Festivals, page 145

Japanese schools hold festivals once a year. During these festivals, school clubs usually engage in an activity to raise money and solicit new members. Popular activities include food stalls, cafes, haunted houses, and dance parties.

Back to school—in Spring, page 150

The Japanese school year begins in April. Since Kanako is transferring from a school in the U.S., she's starting school in September.

Harisen, page 168

A harisen is a paper fan made by rolling up sheets of paper. A famous Osaka comedian used to hit people with a harisen. Apparently it's an Osaka thing.



Afternoon, page 169

"Genshiken" originally appeared in the magazine *Afternoon*, which is known as a hardcore otaku magazine.

Honorifics

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more importantly, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Akuno-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

—**san** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

—**sama** This is one level higher than "—san" and is used to confer great respect.

—**dono** This comes from the word "dono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "—sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid" or "squirf."

Sempai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Oblivious: Usually forgotten in these lists, but perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisue*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can also be very insulting.